United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1425
30 June 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council decides unanimously to extend UNPROFOR mandate by three months until 30 September; asks Secretary-General to report on implementation of peace-keeping plan for Croatia and says it will reconsider UNPROFOR's mandate in Republic.

- Security Council decides last night not to exempt Bosnia and Herzegovina from arms embargo on former Yugoslavia; 6 votes in favour of draft resolution -- sponsored by non-aligned members -- to none against, with nine abstentions.

- Security Council, in Presidential statement, urges UNITA to cooperate with United Nations emergency programme in Angola; says failure to do so would be viewed seriously.

- Security Council Committee to monitor sanctions against Haiti holds first meeting; elects Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) Chairman.

- Tanzania says it regrets that Rwanda peace agreement was not signed at Arusha peace talks; appeals to Government of Rwanda and Rwandese Patriotic Front to conclude agreement, warning of serious conflict.

- UNOSOM II destroys compound in Mogadishu where two Pakistani soldiers were killed on Monday; engagement described as a success.

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The Security Council, acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) by three months until 30 September. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report in one month on the implementation of the United Nations peace-keeping plan for Croatia and relevant Council resolutions, taking into account the Croation Government's position, and decided to reconsider, in the light of that report, UNPROFOR's mandate in Croatia. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 847 (1993).

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By the resolution, the Council approved the Secretary-General's report on UNPROFOR of 25 June, and the request for additional resources contained in his report of 15 May. The Council said it was determined to ensure the security of UNPROFOR and its freedom of movement for all its missions. The Council strongly condemned continuing military attacks within Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and reaffirmed its commitment to ensure respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Croatia and other member States where UNPROFOR was deployed. It called on all concerned to reach an agreement on confidence-building measures in Croatia.

The Council also recalled the overwhelming importance of seeking, on the basis of its resolutions, comprehensive political solutions to the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, and of sustaining confidence and stability in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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The Security Council last night rejected a draft resolution that would have exempted Bosnia and Herzegovina from the arms embargo imposed on the former Yugoslavia by its resolution 713 (1991). It took that action by a show-of-hands vote of 6 in favour to none against, with 9 abstentions. Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan, the United States and Venezuela voted in favour of the draft, which had been sponsored by non-aligned members of the Council. Brazil, China, France, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Spain and the United Kingdom abstained.

By the draft, the Council, acting under the enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter, would have reaffirmed the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would also have demanded that all hostilities within the Republic end immediately, and that the consequences of hostilities against it be reversed.

Introducing the draft, Cape Verde said that after many failed attempts to have the United Nations play its role of maintaining peace and security, the Bosnian Muslims should either be allowed to die at the hands of their enemies or to exercise the right of self-defence. Bosnia and Herzegovina said indefinite negotiations and conferences did not necessarily advance the cause of peace. The international community had no right to demand further concessions from it, but should allow it to defend itself.

Speaking in explanation of vote, the United Kingdom said lifting the embargo would not help the people it was meant to assist, and would probably cause the situation to deteriorate. The United States reaffirmed that Bosnia and Herzegovina had a right to defend itself. The Council's vote should not be seen as an indication that the international community was ignoring the violations of human rights committed by the Bosnian Serbs, the United States added.

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The Security Council, in a statement issued by its President, Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo (Spain), today expressed concern that it had not been possible to continue the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected areas in Angola, begun on 21 June, because of the failure of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to cooperate with the full implementation of the United Nations emergency programme.

The Council urged UNITA to cooperate to facilitate the delivery of emergency humanitarian aid, and emphasized that it would view the matter seriously if UNITA failed to do so.

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The Security Council Committee established to monitor the implementation of sanctions imposed against Haiti by Council resolution 841 (1993) held its first meeting today. Roble Olhaye (Djibouti) was elected Chairman until the end of the year, while the delegations of Pakistan and Spain were designated Vice-Chairmen.

The Committee began its substantive work by considering its programme of work, and decided to establish a set of guidelines for the conduct of its work. The Committee noted that all States were required to report to the Secretary-General by 16 July on measures taken to implement resolution 841 (1993), and that it was mandated to examine those reports.

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Tanzania has said that it regrets that a peace agreement was not signed by the Government of Rwanda and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) at talks hosted by it in Arusha, due to circumstances deemed unavoidable by the Government of Rwanda. Tanzania's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said in a letter to the Security Council that a comprehensive peace agreement was needed as soon as possible, as any delay could lead to an escalating conflict with ominous consequences for Rwanda and for Africa as a whole.

Tanzania noted that since the talks had begun in July 1992, the parties had been able to negotiate a cease-fire agreement and protocols on the rule of law, power-sharing, refugees and displaced persons. Tanzania appealed to the parties to exercise maximum restraint and to ensure that a comprehensive agreement was reached quickly, stressing that it remained committed to the peace process.

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United States forces belonging to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) today destroyed a compound area in Mogadishu where two Pakistani soldiers had been killed and three wounded on Monday, according to a United Nations spokesman. The site was believed to have housed the militia which shot and wounded one Pakistani and two American soldiers on Sunday.

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The compound today housed heavy engineering equipment which had been used to erect barricades and roadblocks, in addition to weapons and ammunition. There were no injuries to UNOSOM troops, and no reports of Somali casualties, and the engagement was considered a success, the spokesman said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that social development was one of the main challenges facing the international community, and would require redistribution, integration and protection. He told the high-level session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva that a new development policy was one of his main goals, and that he had thus begun to restructure the United Nations in the economic and social fields.

Economic redistribution must be promoted for the sake of equity, the Secretary-General said. It must be aimed at the most deprived, and go hand-in-hand with an augmentation of production. Integration must be aimed at those who were marginalized by unemployment and underemployment. Protection meant reducing economic and social uncertainties by providing generalized social coverage, particularly in the health field.

Despite months of negotiations, little progress had been achieved in reforming the United Nations system, the Secretary-General continued. The Economic and Social Council should provide leadership on economic and social policy. Only the United Nations could lead the world to a new view of economic and social progress. He appealed to Member States to help put the reform and restructuring of the Organization back on track.

The Secretary-General stressed that social development was the basis of all development, and said that the elimination of poverty would require stable and sustained global economic growth, with the participation of poor people and poor countries.

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United Nations

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1 July 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says it would be unrealistic to deploy observers to fully control Bosnia and Herzegovina's borders; says even limited monitoring operation would require substantial resources.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti announces concrete plan to solve country's political crisis to be presented to President Aristide and General Cedras; has support of France, United States, Venezuela and Canada.

+ Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, announces High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and appoints 21 individuals to serve on it.

+ Co-Chairman of Yugoslavia Conference, in Geneva, says situation on ground is deteriorating; expresses concern about threats to United Nations humanitarian convoys and personnel.

+ Special Representative for Somalia says UNOSOM II is committed to promoting country's independence; disarmament will proceed decisively and firmly.

+ UNCITRAL aims to complete model law on procurement at twenty-sixth session in Vienna from 5 to 23 July.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that it would be unrealistic for the Security Council to authorize international observers to establish full control over the borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina as world-wide resources for additional peace-keeping troops were becoming increasingly stretched. He made that comment in a report, dated 1 July, on options for the possible deployment of observers, which had been requested by the Council in resolution 838 (1993).

Full border control would require a capability to deny passage and to act where borders had already been crossed, the Secretary-General said. It would also mean that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would supersede

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the national authorities in respect of certain border-control functions. The report identified border monitoring as another option. Observers would only observe and report on Bosnia and Herzegovina's borders, and would not be in a position to check the nature of goods coming into and out of the Republic. Even the more limited option would require substantial additional resources, and the necessary personnel and financing might not be available, he said.

The Secretary-General went on to point out that outstanding contributions to United Nations peace-keeping accounts totaled $1,260 million in mid-June, while upaid assessments amounted to $2,236 million. He said it was "highly probable that in the coming months the Organization will not be able to meet its day-to-day obligations".

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Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), today said a concrete plan to solve the country's political crisis would be presented at separate meetings with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and to General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces. He said the plan had been presented earlier today to France, the United States, Venezuela and Canada and had received their support.

The Special Envoy has been conducting talks with the Haitian parties in New York since Sunday. The talks are aimed at bringing about the return of President Aristide and the restoration of constitutional government to Haiti.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, today announced the establishment of a High-Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development and appointed 21 individuals to serve on it. Last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had recommended the creation of such a board, to consist of eminent persons knowledgeable about environment and development, and the General Assembly had subsequently endorsed the Secretary-General's proposals regarding its nature, functions and composition.

The Board will serve as a high-level source of advice for the Secretary-General in formulating policy proposals, elaborating innovative approaches and courses for action and identifying emerging issues. Those issues will be brought to the attention of relevant intergovernmental bodies, particularly the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).

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Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, today expressed deep concern about the growing level of threats to United Nations humanitarian convoys and personnel in the former Yugoslavia and said the situation on the ground was deteriorating, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Stoltenberg and Co-Chairman Lord Owen attended a meeting of the Conference's Steering Committee in Geneva today.

Lord Owen briefed the meeting on recent Serb-Croat proposals which were being considered by the Bosnian Presidency, and which had not been endorsed by the Co-Chairmen, the spokesman said. Lord Owen pointed out that key provisions of the Vance-Owen plan were still part of the proposals or were on the table with them, including provisions dealing with human rights and the reversal of "ethnic cleansing". The Co-Chairmen were not talking about partition; they were talking about one nation with three constituent republics within accepted international borders.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been worsening "at an alarming rate", and the amount of food reaching the area has fallen by some 50 per cent, according to the spokesman. Aid convoys were being blocked or delayed, with Bosnian Serbs demanding exorbitant tolls, payable on the spot, for every vehicle.

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The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is committed to helping the country to regain its independence and to achieve its rebirth as a nation, the Secretary-General's Special Representative Jonathan Howe said today. In a message to the people of Somalia, he stressed that UNOSOM II expected the country to be self-governing within the two-year framework agreed to in Addis Ababa.

Somalia was "awash" with heavy weapons, and they posed the greatest threat to its future, the Special Representative continued. UNOSOM II was determined to disarm the entire country decisively and firmly. In that process, it did not support or oppose any particular clan. Coercive disarmament operations were directed against those, like General Mohamed Farah Aidid, who used violence to gain political power.

Disarmament and political reconciliation would bring peace to Somalia, he underlined. UNOSOM II was working with various United Nations agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations on humanitarian and development problems. With the World Bank and donor nations, it was putting together a dynamic development programme for Somalia for 1994-1996.

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The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) will aim to complete a model law on procurement at its twenty-sixth session, to be held in Vienna from 5 to 23 July. The text would serve as a model for national legislation on procedures to be followed by government agencies in their procurement practices.

The Commission will have before it a draft prepared by the Working Group on the New International Economic Order. A number of States, including States whose economies are in transition, have already shown interest in using the text as a mode.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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2 July 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Haitian Armed Forces accept Special Envoy's plan for Haiti; small details to be ironed out before agreement can be reached at New York talks.

+ Three Italian UNOSOM II soldiers killed in Mogadishu; attackers said to belong to General Aidid's faction; Secretary-General, expressing condolences, says steps will be taken to reinforce security.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, recommends preventive deployment of 50 military observers to discourage conflict in Abkhazia; warns that escalation could threaten Caucasus region.

+ Secretary-General appoints Brigadier-General Romeo Dallaire of Canada as Chief Military Observer of UNOMUR; ten Member States offer to provide personnel.

+ General Assembly President, in Latvia, meets with Chairman of Supreme Council and Foreign Minister; discusses situation regarding withdrawal of foreign military forces from Baltic States and human rights.

+ Central European Initiative States say closure of Adriatic oil pipeline in former Yugoslavia is causing severe economic losses; say reopening it, with UNPROFOR help, would contribute to peace efforts in area.

+ UNHCR, marking first anniversary of humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, says 45,500 metric tons of supplies have been delivered to besieged city in 4,150 sorties.

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The Haitian Armed Forces have accepted a plan drafted by Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), aimed at solving the country's

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political crisis, according to a United Nations spokesman. However, some small details had to be ironed out before a final agreement could be reached.

The plan was put forward yesterday by the Special Envoy at ongoing talks with the Haitian parties in New York. The talks, which began on Sunday, are aimed at bringing about the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the restoration of constitutional government to Haiti.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, today expressed regret after three Italian soldiers with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) were killed in Mogadishu. He met with Italian Foreign Minister Beniamino Andreatta and expressed his condolences to the Italian Government and people, and to the families of the deceased. He stressed that he would reinforce security measures to allow UNOSOM II to implement its peaceful mission, including the disarmament of Somali factions.

The Italian soldiers were killed after taking part in a disarmament operation, according to a United Nations spokesman. Their 300-strong force encountered roadblocks and rock-throwing crowds, and then came under fire from a variety of weapons. Helicopters belonging to the United States Quick Reaction Force subsequently engaged armed militia men on the ground, and a number of them were killed or wounded in the incident. In addition to the three Italian soldiers killed, 11 were wounded, along with four Somali policemen working with UNOSOM II. The spokesmen went on to say that the militia men belonged to General Mohamed Farah Aidid's faction.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that 50 United Nations military observers be deployed to discourage the escalation of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, particularly in the city of Sukhumi. In a report to the Security Council on the situation in Abkhazia, dated 1 July, he warned that the conflict could have severe consequences for the whole Caucasus region. He said the observers would help reinstate the May cease-fire agreement between Georgian and Abkhaz forces -- which held for two weeks -- report on violations and help to restore the status quo, and try to establish communications between the two sides.

The Secretary-General noted that there were dangers in deploying United Nations personnel when an agreed cease-fire was not being respected, but said the risk was justified given the urgent need to get the conflict under control. He also made the point that the United Nations should think carefully before undertaking a peace-keeping operation not linked to a political process with a reasonable prospect of success; otherwise, there was a danger of open-ended peace-keeping commitments from which it might be difficult to withdraw without causing new hostilities.

The Secretary-General said that if the Security Council endorsed his proposal, the observers would be deployed as soon as contributing Governments

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could make them available, and that he would ask the Russian Federation for logistical support.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Brigadier-General Romeo A. Dallaire of Canada as Chief Military Observer of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR). In a letter to the President of Security Council, dated 30 June, he proposed that UNOMUR consist of military observers from Bangladesh, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Fiji, Hungary, Netherlands, Senegal, Slovakia and Zimbabwe. All of those Member States had expressed their readiness, in principle, to make personnel available.

Outgoing Security Council President Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo of Spain told the Secretary-General in a letter that the Council had agreed to his proposals. The Council decided in resolution 846 (1993) to establish UNOMUR to monitor the Uganda/Rwanda border to verify that no military assistance reaches Rwanda, where the Government has been in conflict with the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). The Mission will be deployed on the Ugandan side of the border for an initial period of six months, subject to review every six months.

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General Assembly President Stoyan Ganev (Bulgaria) today began an official visit to Latvia by meeting with the Chairman of the Latvian Supreme Council. They discussed the situation in Latvia in the context of Assembly resolutions 47/21 and 47/115, which deal, respectively, with the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the Baltic States and the situation of human rights in Latvia and Estonia. Mr. Ganev later discussed those issues with the Latvian Foreign Minister.

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Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia have said they are suffering severe economic damage because of the closure of the Adriatic oil pipeline as a result of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. The Permanent Representatives of those countries to the United Nations told the Secretary-General in a letter that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) could play a major role in reactivating the pipline, which partly runs through United Nations Protected Areas (UNPA).

The nine States, which participate in the Central European Initiative, stressed that the pipeline was of vital importance to them, and that its reopening would aid peaceful efforts to normalize the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

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Since the beginning of the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo one year ago on Saturday, around 45,500 metric tons of supplies have been delivered to the beseiged city's 380,000 residents, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The airlift -- one of the longest since the Berlin blockade of 1948-1949 -- is coordinated by the UNHCR and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

Sarajevo has on several occasions been entirely dependent on the airlift for food, medicine and shelter materials, UNHCR said. After more than 4,150 sorties, some 64 security incidents, such as anti-aircraft fire and radar "lock-ons", have been reported.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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6 July 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached Friday to resolve Haitian political crisis; President Aristide to return to Haiti on 30 October; United Nations and OAS to oversee dialogue aimed at peaceful transition of power.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement on Friday, expresses deep concern at reports of increased fighting in Abkhazia, Georgia; calls on parties to end military action immediately and to respect 14 May cease-fire agreement.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says disarmament process must be effectively implemented in Somalia if UNOSOM II is to fulfill its mandate; says United Nations has shown its willingness to pay, and to exact, cost of peacemaking.

+ North American NGO Symposium on Question of Palestine, ending three-day session, recommends that United Nations co-sponsor conference on Jerusalem.

+ United Nations and Government of Eritrea to seek $111 million for reintegration of refugees at Pledging Conference for Eritrea in Geneva on 6 July.

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After almost a week of talks in New York, Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, signed an agreement on Friday to resolve the political crisis in Haiti. The agreement had been drafted by Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS). Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in New York, expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of the talks.

Under the agreement, President Aristide will return to Haiti on 30 October 1993, and will appoint a new Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

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to replace Lieutenant-General Cedras, who will take early retirement. The parties agreed to hold a political dialogue, under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAS, in order to reach a political truce and create the conditions necessary for a peaceful transition of power, and to establish procedures to enable the Haitian Parliament to resume its normal functioning. They also agreed that the President would nominate a Prime Minister, to be confirmed by the legally reconstituted Parliament.

The agreement further called for the suspension, on the initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of the sanctions imposed against Haiti by Security Council resolution 841 (1993), as soon as the Prime Minister has assumed office.

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The Security Council has called on all parties to the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, to cease military action immediately and to respect the cease-fire agreement of 14 May. In a statement read out by Council President Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom) on Friday evening, the Council expressed deep concern at reports of increased fighting around Sukhumi, the capital of Abkhazia.

The Council also said that it would consider, without delay, the Secretary-General's report of 1 July on the situation in Abkhazia. In that report, the Secretary-General recommended that 50 United Nations military observers be deployed to discourage the escalation of the conflict, warning that it could have severe consequences for the whole Caucasus region. He said the observers would help reinstate the cease-fire agreement, report on violations and help to restore the status quo, and try to establish communications between the two sides. The Secretary-General said that if the Council endorsed his proposal, the observers would be deployed as soon as contributing Governments could make them available.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the disarmament process must be effectively implemented if the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) is to fulfill its mandate to end the plight of the Somali people and promote reconciliation and reconstruction in their country. He made that comment in a report to the Security Council, dated 1 July, on the implementation of its resolution 837 (1993), which was adopted after Somali gunmen killed 23 Pakistani peace-keepers on 5 June. The Secretary-General said that such attacks were tragic and disturbing, but would not deter the United Nations from its commitment to Somalia.

The Secretary-General said that disarmament actions undertaken by UNOSOM II in the wake of the 5 June incident had largely neutralized heavy weapons and the command and control facilities of the factions responsible for large-scale violations of the cease-fire in Mogadishu. Those actions had also made it clear that attempts to disrupt humanitarian relief supplies could not be tolerated. He made the point that by demonstrating its willingness to pay,

and to exact, the cost of peacemaking, the United Nations might well have saved lives and accelerated the attainment of its goals.

The Secretary-General urged the Somali factions to join UNOSOM II in its mission of peace, disarmament and reconciliation, and stressed that he was determined to make all necessary efforts to implement relevant Security Council resolutions.

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The Tenth United Nations North American NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, ending its three-day session at Headquarters on Friday, recommended that the United Nations co-sponsor a conference on Jerusalem as part of the international search for peace and justice in Palestine. In adopting, without a vote, a proposal on mobilizing religious organizations, the Symposium recognized that the issue of Jerusalem was vital to the peace process. The recommendation will be presented to the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, which organized the Symposium.

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A Pledging Conference for Eritrea will be held in Geneva on 6 July to mobilize support and funding for the Programme for Refugee Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Resettlement Areas in Eritrea. The joint appeal of the United Nations and the Government of Eritrea will be seeking $111 million for the 19 months of the Programme's first phase. The Conference will be chaired by Jan Eliasson, Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General, on behalf of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Much of Eritrea's population fled to neighbouring Sudan during 30 years of warfare, which ended in May 1991. Some 70,000 refugees have already returned, and an estimated 430,000 still wish to return, and substantial assistance will be required to provide them with basic services.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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7 July 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Two Somali UNOSOM II employees killed in ambush; Special Representative for Somalia blames General Aidid, saying such criminal acts will not go unpunished.

+ Secretary-General appeals to leading industrialized countries to give special attention to Africa at Tokyo Economic Summit; says continent needs stability, security, democracy and economic assistance.

+ Co-Chairman of Yugoslavia Conference say Bosnian Presidency must soon respond to recent Serb-Croat proposals on future of Bosnia and Herzegovina so that negotiations can begin.

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina, in letter to Security Council, requests helicopter evacuation of Gorazde's population, saying new Serb offensive aims to destroy city and its inhabitants.

+ Security Council refers Andorra's application for membership of United Nations to Committee on Admissions.

+ Negotiations between United Nations and Iraq on application of Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) begin at Headquarters.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti says agreement between President Aristide and Lieutenant-General Cedras will not solve country's political crisis immediately; four-month process to assure peaceful transition of power is beginning.

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Gunmen today ambushed five Somali employees of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), killing two of them, according to Special Representative Jonathan Howe, who denounced the attack in the strongest possible terms. The fate of the other three employees was not known.

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Admiral Howe said in a statement that it appeared that General Mohamed Farah Aidid was responsible for the attack, describing him as "a menace to the safety of all Somalis". He stressed that such criminal acts would not go unpunished. The world community was determined to bring peace and security to Somalia, and UNOSOM II was determined to accomplish the mandate established by the Security Council. On behalf of the United Nations community in Somalia, he extended his deepest sympathy to the families of the victims of today's attack.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States asking that special attention be given to Africa at the Group of Seven Economic Summit in Tokyo. He said in letters written in late May that the continent's problems must be solved for reasons of common moral humanity, for the sake of international peace and security, and for mutually beneficial global prosperity.

The Secretary-General said that Africa had moved "from fragility to instability to desperation", but that a signal from the Summit that a new approach was being considered could create new hope. He went on to say that the continent needed stability and security, which would require preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping deployments; democracy, which would expose corruption, reduce conflict, and increase productivity; and a substantial economic assistance programme accompanied by debt relief.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, today said that that the Bosnian Presidency must soon respond to recent Serb-Croat proposals regarding the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina so that negotiations can begin, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Co-Chairmen said that such a response could be imminent, amid reports that the collective Presidency had met today in Sarajevo.

The Co-Chairmen met today in Zagreb with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, and would meet tomorrow in Belgrade with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the spokesman said. Earlier today, Mr. Stoltenberg met with senior officers of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and with the Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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The Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations has asked that the population of the besieged city of Gorazde be evacuated by helicopter as soon as possible because of the extremely urgent situation there. In a letter to the Security Council, dated 2 July, he said that a new Serbian offensive had been launched against Gorazde with the aim of destroying the city and its inhabitants.

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Gorazde had been subjected to heavy shelling and the whole city was in flames, he continued. The population was in dire need of humanitarian aid, and Serbian forces had prevented a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoy from entering the city.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman today said that as a result of the Bosnian Serbs' seizure of a fuel convoy bound for Sarajevo on 30 June, the last water-pump in that city would run out of fuel tomorrow, threatening a major humanitarian crisis.

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The Security Council today decided to refer the application of the Principality of Andorra for membership of the United Nations to the Committee on the Admission of New Members. The Committee is expected to act on the matter tomorrow.

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High-level negotiations between the United Nations and Iraq concerning the application of Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) began at Headquarters today. Those resolutions authorized certain oil sales by Iraq as exceptions to the economic sanctions against the country.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had expressed the hope that the talks would be successful, and that they would help build confidence between the United Nations and Iraq, a United Nations spokesman said. He noted that the current negotiations -- the fourth in a series which began in 1992 -- were open-ended.

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Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), today described last weekend's agreement between President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras, as "a necessary condition" for solving the country's political crisis, but cautioned that it was "not enough". He told correspondents that a four-month process was now beginning with the aim of assuring a peaceful transition of power in Haiti and the return on 30 October of President Aristide.

Mr. Caputo said the next step in the process would be a political dialogue among the main political parties represented in the Haitian Parliament. A meeting would most likely be held next week, possibly at United Nations Headquarters. Asked what were the chances of the political parties refusing to accept the agreement, he replied: "Of course this is a dialogue and this means that they are going to discuss this agreement and the future." However, he went on to say that it would not be easy to explain to the Haitian people that progress had been blocked because of a political debate.

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United Nations

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8 July 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations Special Commission, as interim measure, sends team to Iraq to ensure that two rocket test sites are not used for prohibited purposes before monitoring cameras can be installed.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says Government of Mozambique and RENAMO must accelerate peace process; warns that international commitments cannot be sustained indefinitely; says elections could be held by October 1994.

+ Denmark says future financing of United Nations development activities is in doubt after General Assembly decision on 25 June not to act on draft resolution on economic and social restructuring of Organization.

+ Cyrus Vance to mediate between former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece, at request of Secretary-General in accordance with Security Council resolution 845 (1993).

+ Lakhdar Ibrahimi of Algeria appointed as Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Zaire; will undertake mission to see how United Nations can help resolve political situation in country.

+ Human Rights Committee to examine reports by Ireland, Hungary, Egypt, Bulgaria and Iran at forty-eighth session in Geneva from 12 to 30 July.

+ UNFPA says World Population Day on 11 July will aid search for balance between population, development and environment.

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The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq is sending a team of experts to the country, as an interim measure, to seal two rocket test sites until monitoring cameras can be installed. In a note to the Security Council, Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Commission, said cameras were the only feasible way of ensuring that the sites were not used for prohibited

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purposes. A team had been withdrawn from Iraq on 5 July because of its refusal to permit the installation of cameras. Mr. Ekeus said the Commission had an inventory of equipment at both sites and would verify that nothing had been moved.

Mr. Ekeus noted that Iraq had delivered certain chemical-weapons-precursor production equipment and precursor chemicals to the Commission's Chemical Destruction Group, and said the equipment had already been destroyed. He recalled that the Security Council had found Iraq's refusal to hand over the equipment and chemicals, and to permit the installation of cameras at the test sites, to constitute a breach of resolution 687 (1991), which was the basis for the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and a violation of resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991). He later told correspondents that the "chemical issue has been eliminated".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) must accelerate the peace process in their country. In a report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ), dated 30 June, he said the Organization would continue to provide help, but could not move the peace process forward by itself. The report was requested by the Security Council in resolution 818 (1993).

The Secretary-General stressed that a timetable for the implementation of last year's General Peace Agreement should be finalized without delay. The deployment of ONUMOZ, the creation of a Trust Fund to assist RENAMO, a massive international humanitarian effort and the return of refugees had created a firm foundation for the peace process. The demobilization of troops should begin very soon and be completed early next year, he continued. ONUMOZ could, with the consent of the Security Council, chair the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambican Defence Force (CCFADM) on the understanding that the United Nations would not be obliged to train or establish the new armed forces.

The Secretary-General said that preparing for elections in an atmosphere of tolerance and reconciliation was a high priority. He warned that the international community would react negatively to procrastination by any party, and noted that international commitments could not be sustained indefinitely. If the Government and RENAMO maintained their political commitment, and the international community were assured that the General Peace Agreement would be implemented promptly, the peace proccess could succeed and elections could be held by October 1994, he concluded.

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Denmark has warned that future financing of United Nations development activities is uncertain following the General Assembly's decision on 25 June not to act on a draft resolution on restructuring the Organization in the economic and social fields. Denmark, on behalf of the Nordic countries, told

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the Economic and Social Council yesterday that discussions on development financing, which should have started at the Assembly's next session, would not now proceed. The Council was beginning the three-day operational activities segment of its session in Geneva.

The United States told the Council that resources were limited, and said there was a need for more coherence and complementarity in United Nations activities. Morocco said developing countries had made great efforts to reach a compromise during the negotiations prior to the 25 June vote, but a spirit of confrontation had prevailed over one of consensus.

Meanwhile, the Council's Social Committee began its work for the session by discussing racism, the persistence of apartheid, "ethnic cleansing" and the increase in gender-based poverty. Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ibrahima Fall told the Committee that while new technologies were bringing people together, ethnic, national and racial intolerance were growing at an "alarming" rate.

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Cyrus Vance, former Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, is to serve as mediator between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Greece at the request of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The request was made in accordance with Security Council resolution 845 (1993), which called on the Secretary-General to continue his efforts for a speedy settlement of the remaining issues between the two parties.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Lakhdar Ibrahimi, former Foreign Minister of Algeria, as his Special Envoy for Zaire. Mr. Ibrahimi will undertake a goodwill mission to the country to explore how the United Nations can assist in resolving the political situation there.

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The Human Rights Committee will examine measures taken by Ireland, Hungary, Egypt, Bulgaria and Iran to promote and protect civil and political rights at its forty-eighth session in Geneva from 12 to 30 July. The 18-member body of independent experts has invited representatives of those countries to discuss reports on the implementation of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee will also study confidential communications from individuals claiming to be victims of violations of rights set forth in the 1966 Covenant. In addition, it will discuss the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, which took place in Vienna from 14 to 25 June.

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World Population Day on 11 July will aid the search for a balance between population, development and the environment, according to Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). She said the Day could also promote the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, which would set the agenda on population issues for the next 20 years.

More than 150 countries will mark World Population Day this year. The Day was first celebrated in 1987, when the world's population reached 5 billion. UNFPA expects the population to reach 6.25 billion by the year 2000, 8.5 billion in 2025 and 10 billion by 2050.

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United Nations

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General to send Special Envoy to Abkhazia, Georgia, to work for implementation of 14 May cease-fire agreement, and to prepare for dispatch of 50 military observers to area.

+ Security Council expresses concern about delays in implementing Mozambique Peace Agreement; invites Mozambican Government and RENAMO to agree to revised timetable for implementation; ONUMOZ to chair Joint Commission on new national army.

+ Security Council recommends that General Assembly admit Principality of Andorra as Member of United Nations; admission will bring total membership to 184.

+ UNHCR, warning of disaster in Sarajevo, condemns use of humanitarian aid as weapon of war; WHO appeals to Security Council to guarantee safe delivery of vital supplies to besieged Bosnian cities.

+ Talks to end Liberian civil war to be held in Geneva from 10 to 17 July; will aim for cease-fire, disarmament and democratic elections in accordance with ECOWAS Peace Plan and 1992 Yamoussoukro IV Accord.

+ Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks to convene at Headquarters from 12 to 30 July; will promote implementation of 1982 Law of Sea Convention.

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The Security Council today asked the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy to Abkhazia, Georgia, to assist in implementing the 14 May cease-fire, and to begin preparations for the dispatch of 50 military observers to the Republic once the cease-fire is implemented. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 849 (1993), in which it expressed concern about the intensification of fighting around Sukhumi, the Abkhaz capital, and stressed the importance of a peace process involving the United Nations.

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The Council asked the Secretary-General to notify it when the cease-fire was implemented, and when conditions permitted the deployment of the observers, and to make recommendations at that stage for their mandate. The Council said it was willing to act quickly upon such notification.

The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to launch a peace process involving the parties to the conflict and with the participation of the Russian Federation as a facilitator. It also supported his cooperation with the Chairman-in-Office of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in efforts to bring peace to the region. The Council called on the Georgian Government to begin discussions with the United Nations on a status-of-forces agreement to facilitate early deployment of observers.

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The Security Council today expressed concern about delays in the implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, in particular with respect to the demobilization of forces, the formation of new unified armed forces and arrangements for elections. It underlined that elections should be held by October 1994. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 850 (1993), by which it approved the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ).

The Council welcomed the agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) to meet on 17 July to address major issues relating to the implementation of the Peace Agreement. It invited the parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in resolving those difficulties, and to agree to the revised timetable for implementation, on the basis of the Secretary-General's report.

The Council urged the Government and RENAMO to begin to demobilize their forces without waiting for all designated assembly areas to become operational, and approved the Secretary-General's recommendation that ONUMOZ chair the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambican Defence Force (CCFADM), on the understanding that the United Nations would not be obliged to train or establish the new armed forces. The Council encouraged RENAMO to participate fully in the Commission's work.

The Council stressed the importance of the early establishment of the Commission of State Administration, and the application throughout the country of the provisions of the Peace Agreement concerning public administration. The Council also invited the Secretary-General to keep it informed of relevant developments, and to report by 18 August on the outcome of the forthcoming discussions.

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The Security Council yesterday recommended to the General Assembly that the Principality of Andorra be admitted to membership in the United Nations. It took that action by adopting, without a vote, resolution 848 (1993). The

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Council decided to waive a time-limit called for in its provisional rules of procedure in order to present its recommendation to the resumed forty-seventh session of the Assembly.

After adopting the resolution, the Council noted in a Presidential statement that Andorra was solemly committed to upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter and to fulfilling all of the obligations contained therein. Andorra's admission will bring the total membership of the Organization to 184.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today condemned the use of humanitarian aid as a weapon of war, warning that the besieged city of Sarajevo was on the brink of disaster. Sadako Ogata said the city's population faced death not only by bombs and bullets, but by thirst, disease and starvation. UNHCR convoys had been hijacked by Bosnian-Serb militiamen ringing Sarajevo, while other cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina could not be reached because of fighting, she said. Meanwhile, international support for UNHCR operations in the region had declined, and relief could be only provided for three or four weeks with available funds.

Yesterday, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) sent an urgent message to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appealing to the Security Council to guarantee the safe delivery of vital supplies to besieged Bosnian cities. Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima said that what was left of the health infrastructure in Sarajevo was about to collapse, warning of a catastrophe "the likes of which Europe and the world have not witnessed since the dark days of the Second World War."

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Negotiations to end the civil war in Liberia will be held in Geneva from 10 to 17 July. The aim will be to create an atmosphere of trust for implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Peace Plan and the 1992 Yamoussoukro IV Accord, which called for a cease-fire, disarmament and democratic elections.

The negotiations will be co-chaired by Trevor Gordon-Somers, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia; Canaan Banana, Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and Abass Bundu, Executive Secretary of ECOWAS. Taking part will be representatives of the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia; the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL); the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL); and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy of Liberia (ULIMO). ECOWAS Foreign Ministers may join the peace process at the end of the week.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will convene at Headquarters from 12 to 30 July to

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promote implementation of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Conference will focus on provisions dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of living resources in the high seas.

According to last year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the Conference's work should be consistent with the Convention, in particular with the rights and obligations of coastal States and States fishing on the high seas. Under the Convention, States should fully implement provisions on the proper management of straddling fish stocks, and regarding highly migratory fish stocks. In addition, living marine resources should be soundly managed to ensure maximum sustainable yield, taking into account the special needs of developing States.

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